

inside.Boulder

Official Newsletter of the City of Boulder, Colorado | WINTER 2009

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The 2010 Census is Coming

United States
**Census
2010**

IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The City of Boulder is partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to help achieve a complete and accurate count of our population as part of the 2010

Census. Conducted every 10 years, the census guides critical decisions on the national, state and local levels and provides insight into population, state, local and tribal government funding and more.

Census data affects us all. Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data. These data also help determine congressional representation and guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, childcare and senior citizen centers, schools and more.

What Should I do? Fill out the questionnaire mailed by the U.S. Census Bureau. You should receive it in the mail in March 2010.

Why is the Census important? Complete and accurate Census data is critical to our ability to serve the people of Boulder. The data helps us identify our population and its needs and allows us to secure our share of federal funding to meet those needs.

Who does the data help? Everyone! Over 200 agencies make their funding allocations based on Census data. Examples where federal funding is allocated include educational agencies; Head Start programs; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); public transportation; road rehabilitation; and emergency food and shelter.

Questions? Call 800-923-8282 or go to www.2010census.gov.

SPOTLIGHT ON BOULDER

World focus on Boulder for climate action

When world leaders met in Copenhagen, Denmark, they turned to the City of Boulder for best practices on climate change action and municipal implementation.

The city was one of the few local governments from around the world to present at the United Nation's Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen this December. Boulder's message focused on lessons learned here and best practices for the role of local governments in responding to global climate change.

On a world scale, Boulder's carbon emissions may be insignificant. The carbon footprint of our 106,000 residents doesn't compare to that of large industrial cities. However, our strategies to reduce emissions are cutting edge. Applied globally, they are significant. Combating climate change is about all of us doing our part. In Boulder, that also means sharing lessons learned so others – whether in Colorado, Europe or Asia – may do their part too.

With the support of City Council, two high-level staff members traveled to Copenhagen to represent the city. Staff spoke on behalf of the challenges and opportunities for local governments in making a difference in climate action and advocated for the kinds of supportive policies and resources municipalities need to be successful.

Boulder was selected because our residents have taken our responsibility seriously: increasing our use of alternative transportation, investing in energy efficiency, and doing a myriad of simple, as well as significant, things to reduce carbon emissions. We have made choices to invest in bikeways, to tax ourselves for climate action programs and open space purchases, and to put a commitment to comprehensive sustainability at the core of our decision making.

On this international stage, Boulder presented its experiences as part of a four-member panel from the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA). The city also participated in several parallel meetings sponsored by the Applied Solutions Coali-



ABOVE: Jonathan Koehn and David Driskell represented Boulder at the COP 15 conference in December.

tion, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Our staff spoke about Boulder's successes and failures as well as how the city implemented its alternative fuel fleet, adopted the climate action tax and the incentives offered to residents and businesses to reduce their carbon footprints.

While the discussions and decisions made in Copenhagen may not immediately change the world's climate, they did set the tone for municipal involvement and positioned Boulder as a global leader in climate action planning. Our commitment at the local level helped enhance Boulder's international reputation as an innovative city with committed residents and a highly educated workforce poised for the future of green business.

To learn more about the city's Climate Action Plan, visit www.bouldercolorado.gov.

The City of Boulder / City Government



City Council Meetings

City Council meetings are open to the public and are generally held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 1777 Broadway, in Council Chambers (second floor). Meetings are aired live on Channel 8 and re-broadcast Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Fridays at 11 a.m. Tapes are also available for checkout at the Main Boulder Public Library, 1001 Arapahoe Ave. In addition, meetings are available online at www.bouldercolorado.gov/channel8. Study sessions are open to the public and are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, please call 303-441-3002.

Inside Boulder Newsletter

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Information in Spanish The city has created a new phone line for information in Spanish: 303-441-1905. People can call this number to request Spanish interpretation at city meetings or events. Please provide 48 hours notice for interpretation services. **Información en Español** La ciudad ha creado una nueva línea telefónica para información en Español: 303.441.1905. Las personas pueden llamar a este número para solicitar interpretación en Español para las juntas o eventos de la ciudad. 48 horas de aviso es requerido para el servicio de interpretación.

Boards and Commissions

The city’s 20 boards and commissions study information and make recommendations to City Council on issues within the board’s area of expertise. Recruitment for annual board appointments occurs in January. For more information: www.bouldercolorado.gov, click on “Boards and Commissions.”

- Arts Commission
- Beverages Licensing Authority
- Board of Zoning Adjustment
- Boulder Urban Renewal Authority
- Chautauqua Association
- Downtown Design Advisory Board
- Downtown Management Commission
- Environmental Advisory Board
- Housing Authority
- Human Relations Commission
- Landmarks Board
- Library Commission
- Open Space Board of Trustees
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Board
- Transportation Advisory Board
- University Hill Commercial Area Management Commission
- Water Resources Advisory Board
- Youth Opportunities Advisory Board

Important Numbers:

General Info: 303-441-3388
Emergency: 911
Police Dispatch (Non-Emergency): 303-441-3333
Office of Human Rights: 303-441-3141
Community Mediation Program: 303-441-4364
Animal Control: 303-442-4030



Contact Directory

City Attorney’s Office Acting City Attorney: David Gehr 303-441-3020	Information Technology Director: Don Ingle 303-441-3080
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Communication/ Channel 8 Communication Manager: Patrick von Keyserling 303-441-4959	Municipal Court Municipal Judge: Linda Cooke 303-441-1843
Downtown & University Hill Management Divisions & Parking Services Director: Molly Winter 303-413-7300	Open Space & Mountain Parks Director: Michael Patton 303-441-3440
Business Assistance/ Economic Vitality Coordinator: Liz Hanson 303-441-3287	Parks and Recreation Director: Kirk Kincannon 303-413-7200
Emergency Management (City and County) Director: Mike Chard 303-441-3390	Community Planning & Sustainability Executive Director: David Dnskell 303-441-1880
Local Environment Ac- tion Manager: Kara Mertz 303-441-3153	Police Police Chief: Mark Beckner 303-441-3310
Finance Director: Bob Eichem 303-441-3040	Public Works Executive Director: Maureen Rait 303-441-3200
Fire Fire Chief: Larry Donner 303-441-3350	Senior Services Division Manager: John Riggle 303-441-4150
Housing and Human Services Director: Karen Rahn 303-441-3157	Transportation Director: Tracy Winfree 303-441-3162
Human Resources Director: Eileen Gomez 303-441-3070	Utilities Director: Ned Williams 303-441-3209

For complete listings of city departments, projects and programs, go to www.bouldercolorado.gov.

Boulder City Council

Contacting City Council Mail letters to: Office of the City Council, P.O. Box 791, Boulder, CO 80306-0791
Fax letters to: 303-441-4478 • Council office phone: 303-441-3002 • E-mail all council members at once: council@bouldercolorado.gov



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MESSAGE FROM THE CITY COUNCIL

Progress on the Climate Action Plan

It already feels like the New Year on council. With the 2009 election season over, we have two new members, KC Becker and George Karakehian. We bid a fond farewell to Angelique Espinoza whose voice added an important perspective to our deliberations. Since Mayor Shaun McGrath's departure in February, we've been operating as an eight member board. It's great to be up to full strength again.

On Nov. 17, Susan Osborne was elected mayor and Ken Wilson was elected deputy mayor. As noted in Susan's remarks to council, this council brings a wealth of experience to its role – including service on more than 11 city boards and leadership roles in an array of local non-profit groups. You should expect your council to hit the ground running!

Looking back, key steps towards long-term city environmental sustainability were taken over the past year. The City Council supported wildlife protection agreements, additional bicycle lanes and new parks projects, including completion of the Dakota Ridge Park and approving construction of bike and disk golf facilities at the Valmont Community Park. New zoning was also approved for the Transit Village, allowing developments in Boulder's next green mixed-use neighborhood to proceed.

It was also a productive year for the city's climate action program, beginning with new strategy development for the Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP is our pathway to meeting Boulder's Kyoto Protocol goals for greenhouse gas reduction. Structural changes in the city's departmental organization were also made to help further facilitate our sustainability efforts. The Office of Environmental Affairs became the Local Environmental Action Division (LEAD), a part of the new Department of Community Planning and Sustainability (formerly the Planning Department).

Among the past year's accomplishments directly related to the CAP are:

- Building regulations were updated to require higher energy efficiencies for both new commercial and residential buildings. The new codes, which went into effect in 2009, will improve the estimated energy efficiency of new commercial buildings by 30 percent and remodels and additions in residential buildings by 15 to 50 percent, depending on the size.
- Ninety percent of new vehicles purchased by the city in 2009 were "alternatively fueled," bringing the total to 45 percent of the vehicle fleet. An estimated 556 metric tons of carbon will be reduced annually.

We look forward to hearing from residents as we set our goals in January that will guide the city for the future.



- Residential curbside composting program began, as did the switch to single-stream recycling. We expect to see an improvement of at least 10 percent in Boulder's waste diversion rate.
- Land was purchased for a new home for Eco-Cycle, the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials, and ReSource, the used building materials yard for the Center for Resource Conservation. In cooperation with Boulder County, these expanded facilities will move Boulder closer to its zero waste goal.
- Photovoltaic systems have been installed on several city facilities, including a one megawatt photovoltaic system that will help offset power at the wastewater treatment plant. All together, an expected 1.4 megawatt hours per year of energy will be generated.
- Implementation planning began for "Two Techs and a Truck," the city's 2010 pilot effort to bring conservation measures in a one-stop-shop format to Boulder homes and businesses.
- City Council coordinated with key regional and state partners to develop language for new Solar Garden legislation that will allow off-site investment in solar and voted to support Boulder's participation in the United Nations Climate Change Conference this December. Local issues are often affected by decisions outside of Boulder, and this conference is an opportunity for the city to share its "lessons learned" and to advocate for the role of local governments in climate action.

Council is continuing to implement efficiencies and looking at new ways of doing governmental business while serving all residents. We have committed to keeping our libraries open in 2010 for the same hours as in 2009 and have preserved programs and grants that serve the most vulnerable in our community. We have also taken the first steps to develop an early childhood learning center in Mapleton School to meet the needs of our most valuable resource - our children.

CITY MANAGER MESSAGE

2010 promises greater efficiencies

By Jane S. Brautigam

The City of Boulder, like other cities throughout the country, continues to be challenged by a struggling economy that has significantly impacted revenues. According to some economists, this recession will set new standards for the American economy and how governments operate in a new, more constrained environment. Like other communities, Boulder also is confronted with a structural funding gap that requires us to focus on greater efficiencies to ensure the city provides high-quality core services while trimming expenditures for the long-term.

Prior to the recession, our first Blue Ribbon Commission identified a \$100 million funding gap in city revenues compared to expenses by 2030. Our second Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC II) has been working over the past year to identify efficiencies that will reduce that gap by shrinking the cost of government, exploring cost-recovery measures that generate revenue, and prioritizing essential services. While we anticipate the BRC II report this spring, the city already has taken significant steps to reduce 2010 expenses and improve efficiencies.

The city's 2010 budget reduces total spending by approximately \$13 million, of which \$5 million is from the operating budgets. Those savings were achieved by the difficult decision to eliminate 26 full-time equivalent positions and by restructuring some operations to fine tune services, to take advantage of new technologies, and to reduce redundancies by centralizing some services. Through this process, the city preserved essential programs such as public safety, library branches and their hours of operation, environmental initiatives, and housing/human services.

The city will continue to provide these core services while continuing to focus on greater efficiencies. In 2010, we will continue to centralize services where appropriate, limit non-essential expenses, and move forward with 2011 budget strategies that reflect lessons learned from the current economy that target results and that challenge us to deliver government services in the most efficient manner. The focus on greater efficiencies and core services to meet the needs of our diverse population will be the framework to stabilize our city budgets.

2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Day



The 2010 MLK Jr. Day event will take place on Monday, Jan. 18, 2010 and will include a human rights fair, workshops, entertainment, children's activities and a keynote speech from Naropa President, Dr. Stuart C. Lord. The festivities will take place at Boulder High School preceded by a rally on the Pearl Street Mall and a march to the high school. For more information, go to www.boulderhumanrights.com and click on "Martin Luther King Day."



City of Boulder wins Center for Digital Government awards

This year, the City of Boulder was recognized with three awards from the Center for Digital Government (CDG). The CDG is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in government. The city was awarded:

- Ninth place in the Digital Cities Survey for a city within the population category of 75,000-124,999;
- As one of five winners for a Digital Government Achievement Award; and
- As a top 10 finalist in the City Portal category for the Best of the Web Awards.

The Digital Cities Survey examines how cities use technology to create a seamless environment between local government and constituents. Criteria for the award include the type of city information available online such as City Council meetings and emergency/hazard alerts; the use of social media such as Twitter and Facebook; and initiatives to make information technology more energy-efficient. The City of Boulder has placed in the top 10 on the Digital Cities Survey for the past four years.

The Digital Government Achievement Award is given to innovative Web sites and digital applications by government. The city was given the award in the Government Internal category for its innovative use of open source technology to redesign the city internal Web site, Boulder@Work.

The Best of the Web award, meanwhile, ranks how U.S. state and local Web portals utilize advances in digital solutions to improve communication with constituents, other government communities, and businesses. Both the Best of the Web and the Digital Government Achievement awards are judged based on Web site accessibility, innovation, cost-savings, ease of use, and exceptional service to the public.

Boulder awarded stimulus money for hydro energy upgrades

In early November, the Department of Energy and U.S. Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet announced that the City of Boulder's 100-year-old Boulder Canyon Hydroelectric Project will get up to \$1.18 million to replace two old turbines for higher efficiency and output.

"This investment is a win-win for the Boulder community – it will create jobs and help Boulder finish a project they've been working on for years," Sen. Udall said. "With the upgrades made possible through this funding, Boulder will also add new life to an existing source of clean power."

The City of Boulder will use the funds to replace two older turbines with a single, high-efficiency unit. The new turbine would operate at a wider range of flows and higher efficiency ranges, resulting in an increase in annual generation of 11,000 MWh (30 percent increase). Upgrades to wiring and removal of asbestos would reduce environmental hazards and improve safety.

The funds, provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, are part of \$30.6 million in funding announced by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to modernize hydropower infrastructure by increasing efficiency at existing facilities and reducing their environmental impact.

"This is great news for the Boulder community, which has worked for years to find funding for this much-needed project," Sen. Bennet said. "This funding will help to generate more power for local communities without increasing emissions or burdening our grid. It's a common-sense investment in a renewable energy source that will help create jobs, improve our environment and boost our economy."

"We as a community are fortunate to have such a great hydroelectric renewable energy program. City staff should be commended for acquiring this stimulus money," said City Manager Jane S. Brautigam. "A lot of staff time went into preparing this grant application and it was well worth it to be able to go forward with these upgrades."

Since 1985, the City of Boulder has run a hydroelectric program to convert the energy in flowing



ABOVE: A city staff person works on a turbine at the Boulder Canyon Hydro.

water into electricity in a sustainable, non-polluting way. Boulder's eight hydroelectric generators convert the water pressure developed within water transmission pipelines as the water travels from the city's water supplies in the mountains high above Boulder down into the city below where the water is delivered. The energy created as the water travels through the pipelines would be wasted if not converted to electricity. No fossil fuels are consumed and nothing is emitted in the conversion process.

The hydro plants generate about 45 million kilowatt-hours of electricity a year, which is sold to Xcel Energy for about \$2 million per year.

The Boulder project is one of seven hydropower projects selected to receive DOE approved stimulus funds.

Upgrading existing hydro facilities in this way is a very inexpensive way to provide renewable energy: the estimated cost of the added generation is less than 4 cents per kWh on average, placing incremental hydro among the most inexpensive sources of renewable energy.



Conversation with a Firefighter: Winter Home Fire Safety

Home fires CAN and DO happen in Boulder. Please keep yourself and your family safe and help the Boulder Fire Department. Go to www.bouldercolorado.gov/fire for safety tips from a firefighter.

Boulder libraries to keep same schedule and offer new services in 2010

City Council voted unanimously to keep Boulder Public Library hours the same for 2010. The city reduced a full-time library management position to half-time and reallocated some funds from the city manager's budget to continue the current library schedule. As a result of this action, all branches remain open and are available for individuals exploring career opportunities on the library's public computers, children's reading programs, and cultural experiences in the gallery, theater, and at the branches.

"In the coming year, we'll be moving forward with creating deep and wonderful experiences for the 21st Century library learner," said Library & Arts Director Tony Tallent.

Some new library offerings include the Power Check program (a partnership with Xcel Energy), which allows the public to check-out Kill-A-Watt meters to measure appliance energy consumption in their homes; Pulse Points that offers focused opportunities to learn or create something new, interact with others and explore art, information and community; a new OverDrive download station for MP3 players and iPods (audio books, music, children and teen materials, and movies); and Touch Screen computers in the Main Children's Library for young children's computer learning games, which allow for more interactivity and accessibility.

Visit www.boulderlibrary.org.



Volunteers needed for the Professional Standards Citizen Review Panel

Are you interested in making a difference in your community? Want to promote top-notch law enforcement service? The Boulder Police Department is looking for two volunteers to serve on the panel that reviews investigations into allegations of serious misconduct by department members. The review panel makes recommendations to the Chief of Police.

Qualifications:

- You must be at least 21 years old;
- You must have lived within the limits of the City of Boulder for at least three years;
- You must have no felony convictions;
- You must have no misdemeanor convictions in the last five years.
- Volunteers are required to attend training from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010.

All applications are due by 5 p.m. on Jan. 8, 2010.

Contact Sgt. Kerry Yamaguchi at 303-441-3312 or yamaguchik@bouldercolorado.gov for more information or an application.

Boulder detective wins award for work on domestic violence cases



ABOVE: Police Chief Mark Beckner with Dixie Bliley

Detective Dixie Bliley is this year's recipient of the prestigious Beth Haynes Award, given to a law enforcement representative who has made significant contributions to domestic violence cases and victims. Bliley was recognized at a ceremony on Oct. 22.

Bliley has been a member of the Boulder Police Department's Family Crimes Unit for 10 years. She is known as a detective who brings both compassion and thoroughness to the investiga-

tions she handles. She works closely with patrol officers to help them understand the requirements of domestic violence laws and the nuances of these often complex cases. This past year, she helped bring comfort to two confused and grieving children who had been left orphans as a result of a murder-suicide. She was also recognized for her work gaining the trust and gathering information from a sexual assault victim who had been repeatedly attacked by her partner.

"Dixie Bliley works tirelessly on behalf of victims, adults and children who are involved in unhealthy and violent family situations," said Police Chief Mark Beckner. "We are proud of her and congratulate her for earning this well-deserved award."

The Beth Haynes Memorial Award was established in 1994 following the tragic loss of Officer Beth Haynes of the Boulder Police Department. On April 16, 1994, Officer Haynes responded to a domestic violence call and was shot and killed by the perpetrator as she arrived on scene. Her efforts saved the lives of two children and two adults

who were originally targeted by the murderer.

The Beth Haynes Memorial Award is viewed as one of the most prestigious annual awards given to law enforcement in Boulder County. The recipient is chosen by a team representing almost every law enforcement agency in the county, as well as Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence, SafeShelter of St. Vrain Valley, the Boulder County District Attorney's office, Boulder County's Department of Social Services, and the County's Domestic Abuse Prevention Project (DAPP).

Law enforcement officers are nominated for the award based on the following criteria:

- History of service to victims
- Knowledge of the dynamics of domestic violence and proper investigative techniques
- Guidance provided to fellow officers on domestic violence issues and cases
- Networking and problem solving around domestic violence issues with other agencies

In addition to Bliley, Boulder Detective Jack Gardner was also recognized for his work.

Winter Warriors: snow removal crews and you

How your streets & sidewalks get from ice to nice, when the weather outside is frightful



ABOVE: City plows remove snow during a recent snowstorm.

As you lay down at night, watching those big fat snowflakes fall outside your window – do you ever wonder how city streets and multi-use paths get cleared the next day so you can get to work?

During snow season, typically mid-September through the end of April, two snow crew teams are assembled. The leader of the teams is on call 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week to track weather conditions and respond to “battle calls,” or notification of snow events. The city’s crews, or “snow warriors,” are expected to respond to battle as quickly as possible, working in rotating 12-hour shifts throughout a snow event.

During a snow event, there are 16 plow trucks on Boulder streets. Fifteen trucks drive predetermined routes while one “marauder,” otherwise known as a floater truck, responds to problem areas and complaint calls. Six trucks distribute

a liquid deicer and four spreader trucks distribute traction materials in order to devastate our icy foes. Two battalions (plow trucks) cover the multi-use path system between 4 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the paths are less used.

Streets are also sometimes pretreated with liquid deicer before a storm (depending on weather conditions) to help reduce the build-up of snow and ice.

Snow control on city streets is affected by the amount of snow and length of the snowstorm, time of day, temperature and traffic conditions. The City of Boulder does not normally plow residential streets for two reasons: we rely on our greatest ally, the sun, to melt most snow within a day or two; and plowing costs would increase by 200 percent if all residential streets were plowed. Plowing on residential streets also can block driveways and parked cars with snow piles, thereby creating other problems for residents.

The city’s snow warriors are good environmental stewards, using alternative deicing and traction materials during battle. No sand is used during operations unless alternative deicing materials are not available from the supplier and public safety is an issue. The liquid deicing agent is a magnesium chloride solution. Magnesium chloride, a plant nutrient and soil stabilizer, is less corrosive than other deicing products. The traction material used is a crystallized deicer, made of complex chlorides, that dissolves.

Winter storm closures:

Where to find city closure information during inclement weather: In the event that the city has to close facilities, services or events due to inclement weather, notices will be posted on the city’s Web site at www.bouldercolorado.gov, on Channel 8, and sent to media outlets like 850 KOA radio and the local TV news programs.

The city sweeps the entire snow system within four days of snow event to keep our commitment to the Regional Air Quality Council. City water quality staff has tested the crystalline deicer and no significant impacts on Boulder’s water sources or distribution system were found.

Fighting your own battles: Sidewalk Snow Removal Requirements

A city ordinance requires owners, managers or residents to remove snow and ice from the public sidewalks abutting their property to ensure safe pedestrian access. A summons can be issued for failure to do so. The fine for a first time offense is \$100; and the maximum fine is \$1,000 and a mandatory court appearance.

When shoveling snow off sidewalks or driveways, remember to avoid putting snow in the streets in order to keep bike lanes clear and safe for bicyclists. Your yard and trees will benefit from the extra moisture from the melting snow.

For more winter tips and snow removal information, go online to www.bouldercolorado.gov and choose “Winter Tips” from the drop-down menu at the bottom of the page.

Future of Boulder’s mountain backdrop - WestTSA

Boulder’s public lands, by design, preserve our local wildlife habitat while providing an escape to the great outdoors for hikers, mountain bikers and nature lovers. The challenge is balancing the variety of recreational interests with ecological preservation.

The city is facing this challenge as it determines how best to manage the West Trail Study Area for the future and for the needs of the majority of the area’s visitors. The West Trail Study Area (TSA) consists of lands west of Broadway from Linden Avenue to Eldorado Springs Drive.

The Open Space and Mountain Parks Department (OSMP) recently completed an inventory report that analyzes the existing conditions of the natural, cultural and recreational resources in the WestTSA. Earlier this fall, OSMP shared that data with a group of community stakeholders when it initiated a Community Collaborative Group (CCG) that was asked to find common ground and identify the diverse and sometimes conflict-

ing interests of those who use the area. The CCG was challenged to recommend a consensus-based plan that will serve the best interests of the land and those who frequent the area.

The CCG is a working group of 16 people who represent a cross-section of community interests. CCG members were elected through a caucus process in September to represent the following communities of interest: recreational resources, natural resources, cultural resources, and neighborhoods. It is the role of the CCG members to communicate with people from those communities throughout the planning process to ensure that their diverse views are taken into account in the CCG’s plan recommendations. The CCG members have been empowered to work together to find solutions and compromises to the varying interests in OSMP land use and management.

The CCG will work with the OSMP Department and the Open Space Board of Trustees to develop



ABOVE: Boulder Flatirons: Part of the WestTSA

a recommendation consistent with the City Charter, legal requirements, City Council approved plans, and fiscal limitations. The WestTSA Plan’s purpose is to provide the management direction and to describe strategic actions that will protect natural and cultural resources, improve the visitor experience, and provide a physically and environmentally sustainable trail system.

For more info on the CCG or to get involved with the WestTSA Plan, visit www.westtsa.org.

GO Boulder's 2nd annual Winter Bike to Work Day



GO Boulder's Second annual Winter Bike to Work Day will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010. More low key than its well-known sister event, "Bike to Work Day," "Winter Bike to Work Day" will include free breakfast for those that pedal their way to work. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at designated locations, including the City of Boulder Municipal Building at 1777 Broadway.

Boulder places a high priority on maintaining its over 300 miles of bike paths and 76 underpasses, even in the winter. So whether the sun is shining or it snows for Winter Bike to Work Day, organizers hope the Boulder community will give winter biking a try. Once they do, they are likely to realize how great it feels to be out in the winter air, exercising, enjoying the mountain vistas and getting to where they need to go without having to depend on a car.

To register and/or for a complete list of free breakfast locations, visit GOBoulder.net and click

on "Winter Bike to Work Day." Registration begins Jan. 1, 2010. Registered participants will be entered into a random drawing.

Approximately 800 riders participated in the 2009 inaugural Winter Bike to Work Day. Organizers hope to reach 1,000 in 2010.

To sponsor this event or for more information, contact Winter Bike to Work Day Coordinator Sue Prant at bikesue@gmail.com, call GO Boulder at 303-441-3266 or visit GOBoulder.net. You can now join GO Boulder on Twitter at [BoulderGOBldr](https://twitter.com/BoulderGOBldr).



ABOVE: Casey Middle School Bike Club poses during the 2008 Winter Bike to Work Day.

Holiday tips to reduce waste and save money



Make it a point this holiday season to responsibly reduce and dispose of your holiday waste.

Wrapping Paper

The Boulder County Recycling Center, 1901 63rd St., will accept traditional wrapping paper for one month (Dec. 26 - Jan. 31) in the bins marked "Paperboard" (not including foil or tissue paper).

White Block Foam and Other Hard to Recycle Materials

If gifts have been packed with white foam blocks, take them to the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM) at 5030 Old Pearl St. The type of foam accepted is #6 white block foam, which is typically used to pack computers, TVs and wine.

Christmas Trees

Please compost your tree by putting it at your curb beside your compost cart on collection day. Those without curbside compost service may take trees (remove all tinsel and decorations) to the Yard Waste Drop-off site at Western Disposal at 5880 Butte Mill Rd. (look for signs). Please do not drop off trees at the former brickyard site - it is under new ownership.

For more holiday waste reduction tips, watch for Eco-Cycle's Holiday Recycling Guide. For general recycling questions, visit www.ecocycle.org or call Eco-Cycle at 303-444-6634. For information on city residential waste reduction programs, visit www.environmentalaffairs.com or call the Recycle Boulder Hotline at 303-999-3823.



Icebusters Needs Volunteers!

The ICEBUSTERS program is currently looking for additional volunteers to help shovel sidewalks and driveways for seniors and disabled residents needing assistance. To volunteer, or if you need help shoveling, contact the Retired Senior Volunteer Program at 303-443-1933.

Junior Rangers: first job opportunity brings unexpected rewards



ABOVE: Some 2009 Junior Rangers enjoying their time on the job.

Many applicants to the Junior Ranger program state that they want to be a Junior Ranger in order to be outside during the summer, doing something useful, and earning their own paycheck. After five weeks of service, many discover they have earned even more.

The city's Junior Ranger program in the Open Space and Mountain Parks Department fosters job and team skills. It provides a means to engage in the community and on the land we live. Junior Rangers learn about leadership and responsibility, communication and team work, as well as trail maintenance and land stewardship. Through their work they gain an appreciation for our environment.

In 2009, 80 teens, ages 14-17, focused their efforts on trail maintenance, erosion control, corridor clearing, and safety concerns. This included over 2,300 hours on the reconstruction of a portion of the EM Greenman trail. Junior Rangers also support integrated pest management and other natural resource management projects.

Much of the success of the program is due to the passion of the young people to join, engage and discover," said Halice Ruppi, the program's coordinator for more than 10 years. "The Junior Ranger program has been serving local youth for over 40 years. It is an investment in the future of our community that is already paying off."

For more info on the Junior Ranger Program and applications, please visit www.OSMP.org.

Buy into Boulder

Why Buy Into Boulder?

Sales Tax 101

When you shop in Boulder, you pay sales tax that goes directly to the City of Boulder to pay for services and programs. Here are the numbers:

- For every \$100 you spend at Boulder stores, \$3.41 stays in Boulder.
- Boulder projects \$73.4 million in retail sales tax collections for 2010.
- Retail sales taxes will make up about 32 percent of Boulder's 2010 budget.

Why are sales taxes so important to the City of Boulder?

They make up a big portion of the city budget; however, sales tax collections have been on the decline due to the recent economic downturn nationally, statewide, and locally.

- 2008: The city collected \$2.1 million less in sales/use taxes than were projected.
- 2009: The city anticipates that sales/use tax collections will be at least \$5.4 million less than originally budgeted.
- 2010: Collections could be lower than originally projected by as much as 8% or .. \$7.2 million.

Current tax revenues are not keeping pace with the inflationary costs of providing services. The City of Boulder has reduced the total 2010 operating budget by \$5 million by implementing efficiencies, reducing staffing, and limiting non-essential services.

Choosing to shop in Boulder is an investment



in your city. Keeping your shopping dollars in Boulder – rather than making online purchases or shopping in neighboring communities – buys into your community and the services you enjoy. It also makes good sense.

What Your Investment Buys

Where does \$3.41 for every \$100 purchase go? The www.bouldercolorado.gov Web site provides a wide range of services and programs provided by the city. Some of these – like police, fire, and library services – are typical municipal services and may easily come to mind. Boulder also meets the needs of its residents, employees, and visitors by providing more progressive programs such as an extensive network of bicycle and multi-use trails and climate action programs.

When you Buy Into Boulder you're investing in what it takes to make Boulder the community we all enjoy. As an example, for every \$100 you spend at Boulder stores, you pay sales taxes for these city services:

- 47 cents for police protection and services
- 23 cents for fire protection and services
- 60 cents for transportation (maintaining and improving streets, sidewalks, and bicycle paths)
- 10 cents for library services

For more information on shopping local, visit www.buyintoboulder.com.

City launches online payment for utility bills

Beginning in January, the City of Boulder will launch a new online option for paying your city utility bill.* The new Web site, dubbed "MyBUB" for My Boulder Utility Bill, can be found at <https://MyBoulderUtilityBill.bouldercolorado.gov>. Users can simply pay online without registering or logging in as long as they have their account number and customer number from a previous bill. However, if customers want additional information about their account, they can register with the site, log in and peruse the many features available.



This free service will allow City of Boulder utility customers to view the following information whenever they want:

- Account balances
- Water use history/actual water use
- Billing history
- Monthly water budgets
- Water meter reading history

Customers who set up online billing options and pay bills online will help reduce the need for paper bills. This can save customers time and money and help the environment.

For more information, call 303-441-3260.

* Reminder: The City of Boulder Utility Bill includes your water, wastewater and storm-water charges. The city does not provide your energy. Please contact Xcel Energy for information about your gas and electric bill.

Affordable Housing: Creating community and supporting sustainability

Finding affordable housing in Boulder can be difficult, but the City of Boulder is committed to making homes in our community available to a variety of people – including those who could not otherwise purchase a home in today's housing market.

"Since I left Romania in 1990, I've moved 18 times. I hope not to move any more," said 70-year-old Florina, a U.S. citizen born in Romania. Boulder's affordable housing regulations helped her purchase a Boulder home this year.

Florina left Romania in 1990 with nothing except

her determination to seek a better life for herself and her children. She settled in the Boulder area where she worked at a grocery store until a workplace injury forced her retirement. This year, Florina purchased an affordable home in the Landmark Lofts development. Now, she has a place of her own from which she can walk to church, the grocery store and take the bus to medical appointments.

Florina's story is not unique. The City of Boulder's Housing and Human Services Department helps people with low and moderate incomes to buy homes at below-market prices. Boulder also

offers down payment assistance grants to first-time homebuyers who agree that when the home is resold, it will be at an affordable price and to an income-eligible person.

City programs have already helped more than 600 households with modest incomes buy in Boulder. Currently, there are 26 homes available at below market prices. For more information about the City of Boulder's affordable homeownership programs, including eligibility requirements and to see available properties, please visit www.boulderaffordablehomes.com or call 303-441-3157.